

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 ERDA-05 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 L-03 NSC-05 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-03

SS-15 FEA-01 /107 W

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R 101656Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9538

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1051

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EC, ENRG, OECD, FR

SUBJECT: ENERGY: VIEWS WITHIN EC COMMISSION

REF EC BRUSSELS 7969

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO AN EC COMMISSION SOURCE THE FRENCH ARE STILL VERY NEGATIVE ON THE QUESTION OF EC ADOPTION OF A MINIMUM SAFEGUARD PRICE SCHEME. BY THE END OF THE WEEK, HOWEVER, THIS SOURCE BELIEVES THE NINE WILL HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE MODALITIES OF CONVENING A CONSUMER/PRODUCER
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CONFERENCE. ON A COMMON EC ENERGY POLICY, THE COMMISSION IS

EXPECTED TO HAVE AGREED ON A PACKAGE IN MID-OCTOBER WHICH
SIMONET WILL TRY TO SELL TO CAPITALS IN NOVEMBER PRIOR TO
A COUNCIL MEETING ON ENERGY IN EARLY DECEMBER. END SUMMARY

2. IN A TOUR D'HORIZON WITH USED DCM MORRIS, EC COMMISSION
VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET'S CHEF DE CABINET VANDEN ABEELE SAID
THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO TAKE A NEGATIVE LINE ON THE POSSIBILITY
OF THE NINE'S AGREEING TO A MINIMUM SAFEGUARD PRICE SCHEME.
VANDEN ABEELE THOUGHT THIS WAS UNFORTUNATE SINCE IN HIS AND
SIMONET'S VIEW SUCH A SCHEME COULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY
TO A COMMON CONSUMER POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE PRODUCERS WHICH
HE CONSIDERED CLEARLY IN THE CONSUMER INTEREST. ACCORDING
TO VANDEN ABEELE, THE FRENCH TOUCHINESS ABOUT THE IEA SEEMED
TO BE INCREASING RATHER THAN DIMINISHING. FOR EXAMPLE THE
FRENCH CONTINUE TO DRAG THEIR FEET ON THE QUESTION OF COOPERATION
IN ENERGY R & D.

3. VANDEN ABEELE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRENCH AND PARTICULARLY
GISCARD REMAINED EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO HAVE A DIPLOMATIC
SUCCESS WITH THE CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE. HE CONFIRMED
THAT THE COREPER AND THE AD HOC ENERGY GROUP WOULD EXAMINE THE
REMAINING QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MODALITIES OF THE
DIALOGUE ON SEPT 11 AND 12 (REFTEL) AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT
THE NINE WOULD BE ABLE TO IRON OUT ANY REMAINING DIFFICULTIES
THUS PERMITTING THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NINE TO GIVE A
STAMP OF APPROVAL TO A COMMON POSITION AT THE SEPT 15 COUNCIL
MEETING.

4. VANDEN ABEELE SAID THE COMMISSION WAS MAKING A CONCERTED
EFFORT FINALLY TO PULL TOGETHER A COMMON EC ENERGY POLICY. THE
COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR ENERGY WAS WORKING ON A NUMBER
OF PAPERS WHICH VANDEN ABEELE HOPED WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN MID
OCT. TO THESE SIMONET WOULD ADD A COVERING PAPER ADDRESSING
ITSELF TO THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM. VANDEN
ABEELE HOPED THE ENTIRE PACKAGE WOULD BE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION
BY THE END OF OCT. SIMONET WOULD THEN VISIT THE CAPITALS OF
THE NINE DURING NOV IN AN EFFORT TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR THE
ENTIRE PACKAGE WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY EC MINISTERS IN
A COUNCIL MEETING DEVOTED TO ENERGY IN EARLY DEC. GREENWALD

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